

## **DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program (RRGL) Project Planning Grant Application Guidance**

### **Contact Information**

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### **RRGL Planning Grant Purpose**

The purpose of RRGL project planning grants is to fund planning efforts, by public entities for projects that conserve, manage, develop, or preserve renewable resources in Montana.

This grant can only be used to pay for DNRC-approved contracted services necessary to plan a renewable resource project. The grant cannot be used for grant writing. The grant cannot be used to pay for in-kind services or administration except in the case of watershed planning grants. Because watershed planning grants are larger and more complex to manage, applicants may request up to 5% of the grant in administrative costs.

### **Eligibility**

City, County or other local political subdivisions or tribal governments within the state are eligible to apply for RRGL planning grants. State, Federal and private entities are ineligible to receive planning grant funds.

### **Applications will be evaluated by:**

- A clear description of the problem to be solved.
- Measurable renewable resource and public benefits of the proposed project
- Immediacy and magnitude of the project.

### **Funding**

Applicants will be limited to the amounts indicated under Application Types. The actual amount of the award will be at the Department's discretion. The award amount will be based on the amount of grant funding the applicant has already received and the availability of RRGL funding.

**If the applicant is applying on behalf of a private entity, a 25% match of the grant will be required. Example: A Conservation District applying on behalf of an Association, Company or a private individual(s).**

### **Application Types**

1. **Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) or Technical Report/Investigation (including pilot testing and technical investigations):**

Grant limit-\$10,000

- These grants must be used to pay for contracted engineering services that result in a PER meeting the requirements of the Uniform Application for Montana Public Facility Projects or a Technical Narrative meeting the requirements of Steps 4 and 6 of the RRGL Application. These grants may not be used to compensate the sponsor for in-kind services or administrative costs. The applicant may not receive the entire requested amount.

## **2. PER Updates:**

Grant limit-\$5,000

- These grants must be used to pay for contracted engineering services that result in a PER update meeting the requirements of the Uniform Application for Montana Public Facility Projects or a Technical Narrative meeting the requirements of Steps 4 and 6 of the RRGL Application. These grants may not be used to compensate the sponsor for in-kind services or administrative costs.

**NOTE-Applicants for public facility Preliminary Engineering Report grants must first apply to the MT Department of Commerce, Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) for a planning grant.**

## **3. Administrative:**

Grant limit-\$5,000

- These grants must be used to pay for contracted administrative costs associated with the development of a renewable resource project or funding application. These grants may not be used to compensate the sponsor for in-kind administrative costs.
- Examples of potential activities include:
  - Capital Improvements Plans
  - Growth Planning and Growth Policy Development

## **4. Watershed Planning Grants:**

Grant limit-\$50,000

- These grants must be used to pay for project planning activities that lead to long term protection and restoration of a watershed. Watershed planning grants used to address infrastructure protection must include a plan that leads to improvement in the natural structure and function of the watershed. Watershed planning grants may address any part of a watershed including floodplains, wetlands, connected groundwater resources and tributaries. These grants may include up to 5% of the total amount of the grant for administrative purposes.
  - Examples of eligible planning activities include:

- A watershed assessment that identifies concerns such as meeting total maximum daily load (TMDL) limits, weed control, fire prevention or rehabilitation, flood mitigation and flood plain planning, protection or relocation of existing infrastructure.
- A watershed assessment that prioritizes projects considering magnitude, urgency, and cost.
- Alternative analysis or planning and design of a project that will lead to the long term protection and restoration of a waterway.
- Applicants must:
  - Demonstrate partnership with the local conservation district, affected landowners and other stakeholders.
  - Contract with consultants having the requisite skills to conduct the proposed project such as a fluvial geomorphologist, engineer, hydrologist, weed control, floodplain or wetland specialist.

## **Funding Cycles**

First Cycle:           \$200,000 available

1. Accepting Applications: May 15, 2015
2. Application Deadline: July 1, 2015
3. Grant Awards: July 30, 2015

Second Cycle:       \$200,000 available

1. Accepting Applications: Sept., 1, 2015
2. Application Deadline: Sept. 25, 2015
3. Grant Awards: October 9, 2015

After grant awards are made for the second cycle, planning grants will be awarded at the program's discretion, until the money is gone.